



Enriching the Education
of our Students

ENABLING RNE

Roswell North Elementary Education Foundation
2010-2011 Annual Campaign Newsletter



Greetings Roswell North Families,

What would you say if I told you that we could be months away from having an interactive whiteboard in every homeroom class at RNE? Well that goal can be a reality with a little help from everyone working together!

Let me catch you up! I am beyond fortunate to walk into a building with an amazing staff, but also an incredible PTA, a Dad's Club with over

100 members and a Foundation that is set to outfit each of our classrooms with interactive technology! WOW!

Our theme at **RNE is Climbing to Greater Heights...** and this is the perfect encouraging motto for us as we move towards the Foundation's goal of an interactive board in every classroom. In my previous school, we successfully used a gaming device to turn any white board surface into an interactive whiteboard. We have discussed this option and find it to be perfect and viable at RNE AND it is more attainable – quicker – because of the lower cost! It is very reasonable to say that each classroom can have an interactive board for under \$1300! This includes a projector, Wii-mote, software and installation. Previous boards were between priced at between \$3700 and \$5700.

Mr. Huff planted the seeds for this endeavor and our able and enthusiastic Foundation jumped quickly on board. The Roswell North Elementary Education Foundation (RNEEF) begins their annual campaign today and with the help of many hands this goal can be achieved in a short time frame. We hope each family will see not only the educational benefit for your own student, but also the benefit for our school in our community. **Stronger schools naturally bring stronger communities!**

I know we all are in a different place financially, but it is my hope that each family will see the value of this and make a financial commitment, as you are able.

RNE is poised to become more of a 21st century classroom environment so join us as we enthusiastically **Climb to Greater Height!**

Respectfully,

Kindra Smith

Principal, Roswell North Elementary

David & Inge Robb, Honorary Co-Chairs 2010-2011 RNEEF Annual Campaign

Dear Fellow RNE Parents,
Teachers, Staff and Other
Supporters,

The Robb family enthusiastically supports the RNEEF and was honored to be asked to Co-Chair this year's annual campaign. We strongly support RNEEF's objective of providing each of our dedicated teachers with world-class tools in their classrooms, for the benefit of all students at RNE, particularly in the areas of technology, science and math.

Equipping each homeroom with an Interactive Board is an important component to continuously striving for greater educational achievements. These boards dramatically improve classroom involvement and in turn our students (our children) become more eager to learn, participatory and fully engaged. Our students want to be part of this type environment; they retain more information and achieve better learning outcomes now and later in their scholastic careers. To quote one of our fifth graders, "It's cool!" We couldn't be more thrilled this will, with your help, become a reality in each and every homeroom, early in this school year, months ahead of plan.

We are equally excited about the next two priorities on the docket for this year, once the school is fully equipped with interactive White Boards. These are the addition of a fully functional, state of the art science lab as well as wireless computer carts with 32 laptops for EACH grade level. These carts will provide students access to computers that will in turn allow them to master research techniques and skills they will need to excel in school and life.

Please join the Robb family with your support of RNEEF during this year's annual campaign.



We Love Our School!

Save The Date!

RNEEF Annual
Spring Soiree

Saturday, April 16th
Jeffords Hall, Roswell

Check It Out...

**Corporate
Matching
Donations**

Many companies
match charitable
donations...
Does yours?

If you work for a
company that matches
your gifts, please
contact your HR
department to double
your donation!

RNEEF is a 501 (c) (3)
Georgia Nonprofit
corporation. Your
donation is fully tax
deductible!

Display Your RNEEF Pride

Every 2010-2011
RNEEF Donor will
receive 2 exclusive
decals for car, business
or school room like the
one shown below

Foundation Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why does Roswell North Have and Need a Foundation?

Many schools, both private and public, are adding non-profit foundations to support educational programs beyond what limited and shrinking tax dollars fund. 100% of every tax-deductible dollar donated supports Roswell North directly. Donations to the foundation give parents, grandparents, businesses, Roswell residents and Grant Foundations an attractive vehicle to contribute to the school. RNEEF was formed to enable the purchase of the technology, science and math resources necessary for our children to succeed academically and beyond.

How is the Foundation Different than the PTA?

The school needs both a strong PTA and a strong Foundation. The PTA is the heart and soul of the volunteer efforts that support the programs and activities of the school. These programs are vital to the quality of life of our students and the enrichment activities that RNE provides. The focus of the PTA and the need for their continued financial support and volunteer time will not change. The Foundation has a singular role; to raise money to fund programs that support the advancement of technology, science and math at RNE. The Foundation does not run but **funds** programs and purchases, although we, too, need volunteers to execute our fundraising efforts.

How Does the Foundation Raise Money?

The Foundation has four major fundraising initiatives. The first is by requesting available grants. The second is by soliciting local business partners and employers of RNEEF contributors to secure matching funds. The next will be our annual spring social event. Finally, almost every successful school foundation has an annual campaign for students, parents, faculty and staff. This will officially begin on September 20th and will conclude on October 6th. The focus is on participation, not size of donation. Each donation makes a difference, so we'd love to get 100% support from everyone. We are looking forward to building on the success of all of our initiatives from last year to have an even stronger year for our students.

How Do I Learn More?

Speak with any RNEEF Board member or volunteer or find us on the school's website to learn more or donate via paypal. <http://www.fultonschools.org/School/RoswellNorth/foundation.html>

Teacher's Note...

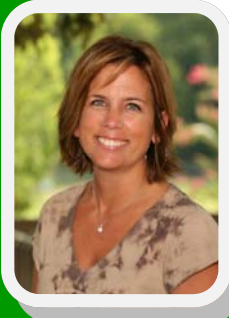
As a teacher who received an Interactive Whiteboard last year, I'm more excited than ever about the possibility of seeing an Interactive Whiteboard in every room. Not only will every teacher benefit from this technology, but also every student that walks through RNE's doors for years to come will be touched by what we are trying to accomplish today. As an RNE parent, I'm asked to give to many different worthy initiatives just like many of you. I do prioritize RNEEF, as many other parents and teachers do as well. The Foundation seeks grants and business donors year round, but will ask the parents for money just once a year.

Meanwhile, I have to thank my fellow Faculty and Staff for their outstanding level of participation in last year's campaign. Your 50% participation rate was a FANTASTIC first year show of support. I know that we'll show a similar level of commitment to this year's campaign/.

With your donations, the Foundation is setting the stage for a school that will seek to **Climb to Greater Heights** in our community for years to come. Please join the Consoer family by supporting RNEEF during our annual campaign.

Suzie Consoer

2009 Interactive Board Recipient
RNEEF Teacher Representative
2nd Grade Teacher, RNE



A Note From Our President...Maggie DeCan

Dear Parents, Teachers and Foundation Supporters,

First, I must thank you all for the tremendous support the Roswell North Elementary Educational Foundation (RNEEF) received in its first year. Many questioned our sanity and wisdom when we embarked on our mission during the heart of the recession but we had faith and confidence in our community, our parents and the spirit that makes RNE one of the best elementary schools in the state of Georgia. As we expected, that faith and confidence was more than justified. Since its inception the RNEEF has:

- Purchased and installed FOURTEEN Interactive White Boards
- Received a significant designated gift to fund a new science lab
- Raised over \$70,000
- Involved over 100 parent volunteers
- Most importantly, impacted the lives of nearly 1,000 RNE students and enhanced their educational experience

All of these accomplishments are remarkable and you should all be proud of the results of your efforts. With that said, we are not done. We have made a great start and we need to keep the energy and the enthusiasm up. As we move into this year's annual campaign we need to focus on the following objectives:

- Fund the remaining 19 Interactive White Boards needed to achieve our goal of one in every classroom.
- Raise the remaining moneys needed to ensure the equipping and ongoing operation of the RNE science lab.
- Fund the acquisition of a mobile wireless computer lab cart for each grade level.

We have a clear focus and we are having fantastic results. What we need now your continued support to reach our goals and make RNE the model of Elementary Education that we all want it to be. We need your volunteer time, whether it is 2 or 200 hours, as well as your financial commitment. We want to see twice as many people at this year's Spring Soiree April 16th, 2011. In addition we are always in need of more business sponsors.

As I have said before, we all love our school. Please join me in continuing to demonstrate that love through our support of the RNEEF.

Your RNEEF Board of Trustees



From left to right standing: Suzie Consoer, *Teacher Representative*; Ron Jackson, *VP Community Relations*; Tara Guinn, *CPA, Treasurer*; Dr. Bob Licata, *Trustee and Founding Sponsor*; Mrs. Smith, **Principal**; Kari Albers, *Trustee*; Ralph Perales, *Esq, Trustee*; Tony Greene, *VP Communications*; Maggie DeCan, *President*; Ms. Garosi, *Assistant Principal*. From left to right seated: Beth Fincher, *Secretary*; Inge Robb, *Trustee*; Deirdre Kinoshita, *VP Grants*; Francie Towey, *Trustee*.

Volunteers Needed!

The Foundation can only accomplish it's initiatives with the help of committed volunteers.

Thank you to all who volunteered last year and continue to support RNEEF with their time. Thank you also to those who have already offered to help this year. You can expect to be contacted in the next 30 days.

Your efforts are what make the Foundation work. **At this time we are in need of more volunteers to work in the following specific areas:**

- Obtaining Business Sponsors,
- Accounting/ Bookkeeping (preferably CPA), Public Relations,
- Web development/ coordination
- Attorney or legal background
- Co-Chair in training for the Spring Soiree (to work with the committee this year and move into leadership for the 2012 Soiree)

Please contact us at rneefoundation@gmail.com if you would like to discuss the commitment we are looking for or to let us know how you would like to help.

A Note From Our Treasurer...Tara Guinn, CPA

Dear Parents, Teachers, Staff and Supporters of RNEEF,

Wow, what a phenomenal first year the Foundation has had because of your generosity and support. Because of you, we raised nearly \$73,000 and purchased 14 Interactive Whiteboards for RNE. Your children have access to one of these interactive boards even if they don't yet have a board in their homeroom class as two of these boards were placed in the computer lab and the music room.

Last year, we hoped to purchase boards for each classroom by the end of this school year. At the moment, we need 19 more. Because of new technology that Mrs. Smith brought with her, we can buy the boards at half the cost and be finished by the end of this annual campaign in October, with all classrooms possibly having a board in November. That is truly amazing! Our goal is to place all 19 boards in the remaining homerooms and equip the school with a brand new science lab THIS FALL. Once this is in place, we will begin purchasing mobile computer lab carts until the school has a 32-computer mobile lab for each grade level. We have budgeted to raise \$85,000 this school year and I know we can make it.

In order to enhance our children's education, we need your help. We would like to receive \$150 from every family who is in a position to donate. Your donations will first go to purchase the remaining interactive white boards, then to maintain the ongoing operations of the science lab that will be initially funded through a generous grant, and if any money is left over we will begin purchasing the much needed computer carts. We do realize the tough economic times and do hope to get high participation rates from our school. However, with that said, please give what you can and know **every contribution is appreciated**. Remember, **100% of your money benefits the school and is tax deductible for you**. Last year we had only 20% RNE family participation and nearly 50% Faculty and Staff participation. This shows you how much our school's Teachers believe and need what our school community is doing to participate so enthusiastically during a time of pay freezes and furlough days. Now that we have all seen what we can do when we work together, this year, I'd like to see the parental participation match or EXCEED Faculty and Staff participation. This is the ONE AND ONLY TIME of the year that we will ask you for a contribution to the foundation (although donations are accepted all year long).

Thank you so much for making the foundation a huge success! Together, we are making significant impact and improving the educational experience of every child at Roswell North. Please join my family and me in giving to the RNEEF's annual campaign.



What Are Wii Boards?

Wii Boards are anything but video games in the classroom. In December 2007, a college student from Carnegie Mellon University, Johnny Chung Lee, released a video demonstrating among other things how a Nintendo Wii Remote can be used to make an interactive whiteboard. ([See the original video. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5s5EvH7eQ>](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5s5EvH7eQ)) Since then, schools all over the world have taken advantage of this low cost approach to integrating technology into the classroom.

At Roswell North, Mrs. Smith had firsthand experience with integrating this technology into the classrooms of her former school. With over 2 years of experience working with the wiimote whiteboards, she is excited about the opportunity to help Roswell North acquire this technology with the same success. Smith states, *"I truly believe that technology is a great way to increase the level of engagement which ignites learning for all children!"*



Wii Boards have all the functionality of a traditional Active Board but because of the significantly reduced cost to set up a wiimote whiteboard versus a traditional Active Board, more classrooms are able to be equipped more quickly which puts technology in the hands of more students! Research shows that schools that capitalize on the relationship between technology and education reform will help students to develop higher order skills and to func-

Business Sponsors Needed!

Are you a small business owner wanting to advertise and get your name out there?

Do you work for a large corporation in the area that wants to be involved in our community?

This year we have over 1,000 students with approximately 850 families you could reach easily by becoming a business sponsor.

You can advertise on our website, at the school, and at our events. We want to help you advertise and are open for suggestions.

Interested?

Please contact us at rneefoundation@gmail.com for a list of opportunities.



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